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GEORGE RASYE

August 14, 2000

VIA FAX

Steve Macaulay, Chief Deputy Director
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Delta Levee Restoration Program

Dear Steve:

The Flood Control Association wishes the Delta Levee Restoration Program to be incorporated in a CalFed Record of Decision to provide additional federal funding for assistance to DWR and the local districts in preserving the present configuration of the Delta. The Association is, however, concerned about the nature of CalFed involvement, including both general governance and specific participation in the Levee Restoration Program.

CalFed documents indicate that it proposes to "build upon" the present Delta Levee Restoration Program, as derived from SB 34 and AB 360, which operates quite effectively through DWR, the Reclamation Board, and the local districts. If the Restoration Program is made subject to hands-on surveillance by an oversight committee, from the standpoint of DWR and the local districts it can become much more cumbersome and complex. If the program works well now and CalFed intent is to "build upon" that program, the more general the approval of the program in concept, rather than detail, the better.

As to federal funding to be contributed toward the Delta Levee Restoration Program, this should come not through the Corps of Engineers but through the Bureau of Reclamation. Participation directly by the Corps in the Restoration Program is likely to complicate the program from the standpoint of the local districts and DWR. The Corps traditionally does its own engineering and construction work, usually at considerably higher costs which are passed on to the other participants. The main advantage of the Levee Restoration Program as it currently operates is that the work is done at the lowest and most immediate level, with the least probable cost for the work accomplished. It is suggested that the

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USBR could provide federal funding through a WRDA, which could supplement the Department's funding for this program.

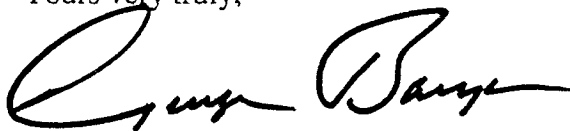
The Corps' participation in the CalFed levee program should be through the Comprehensive Study being conducted by DWR and the Corps. This study will doubtless lead to substantial construction work, which appropriately would involve the Corps of Engineers in its traditional role. The Restoration Program as currently operated is basically a maintenance activity, rather than a reconstruction program. It therefore fits better within the concern of the USBR, which shares with DWR the potential adverse impact on water quality of a loss of Delta levees and therefore is interested in the continued preservation of the current Delta configuration.

It is suggested, therefore, that the ROD for CalFed make this distinction clearly as to the Delta Levee programs. The USBR should be identified as the participant for federal funding to implement the current Delta Levee Restoration Program, and the Corps of Engineers as the federal entity to implement such construction projects as may be developed through the Comprehensive Study of the Sacramento and San Joaquin systems.

Please assist in clarifying these most important issues in the Record of Decision, so that the continued effective cooperation between the State and local agencies in the Delta Levee Restoration Program will not be complicated or impeded by potential federal involvement.

Your cooperation and assistance are greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,



George Basye, Attorney
California Central Valley Flood Control Association

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cc: T.M. Hardesty, President
California Central Valley Flood Control Association
Robert Clark, Manager
California Central Valley Flood Control Association